



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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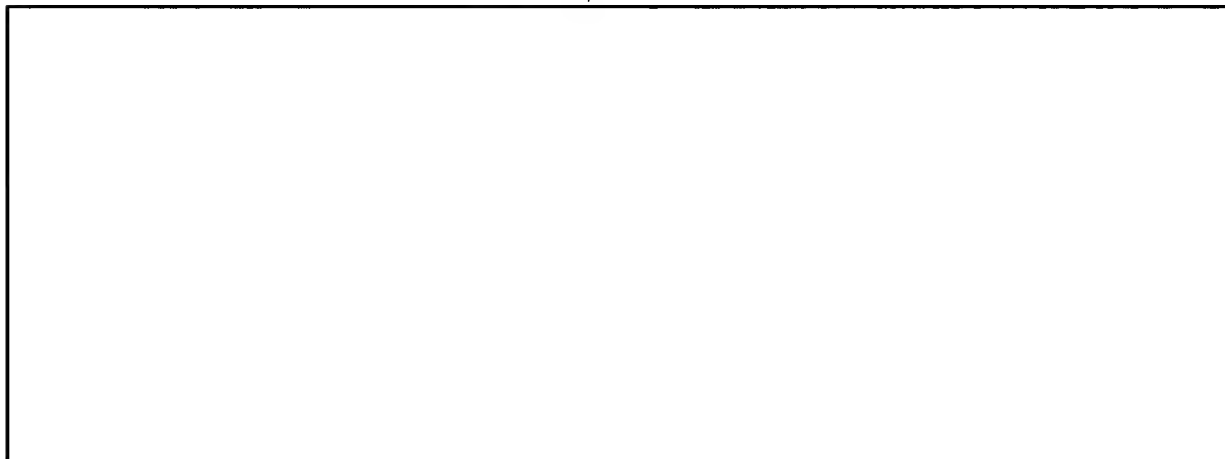
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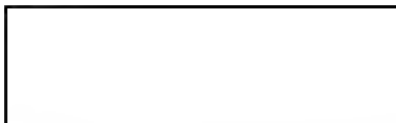


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Overnight Reports 20

The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the *Daily*, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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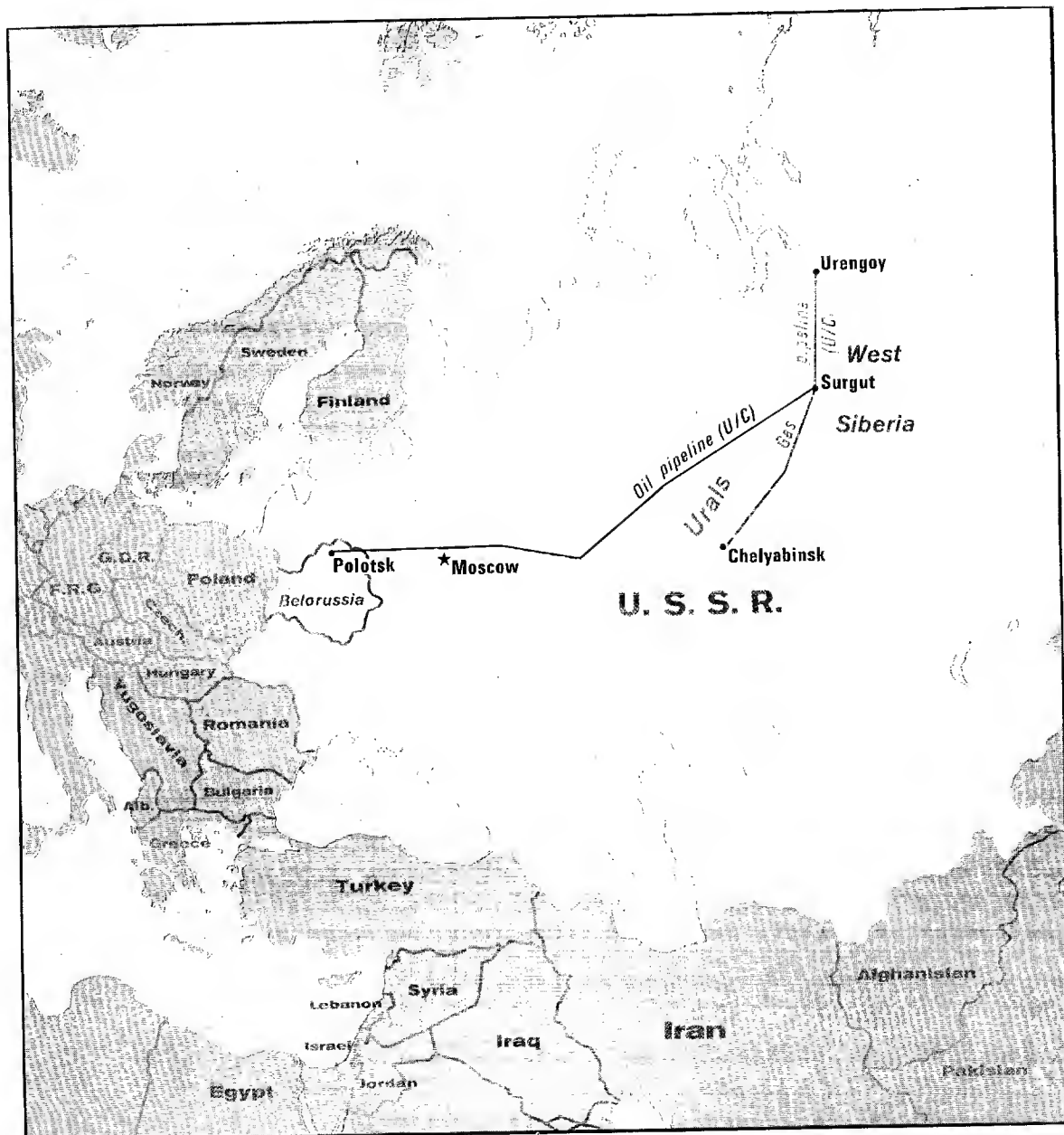
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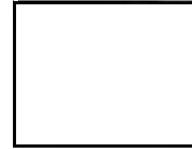
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USSR: Pipeline Problems

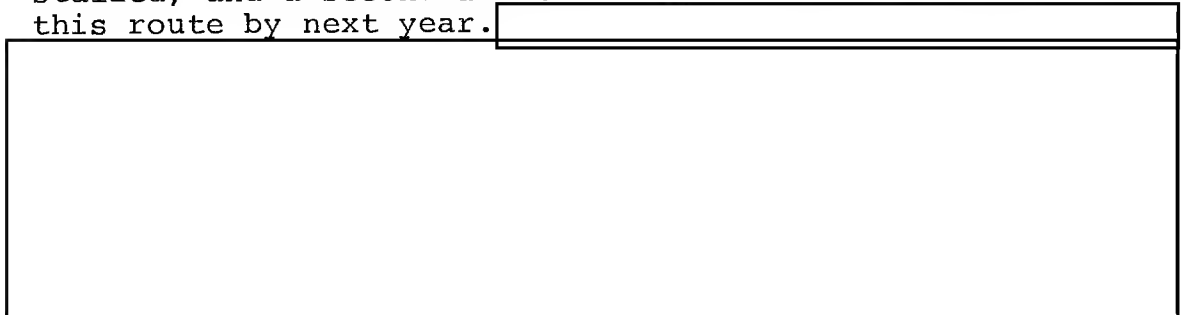
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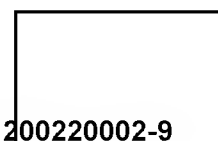
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The two Siberian pipelines include an oil line from Surgut to Polotsk in Belorussia and a gas line between Urgengoy and Chelyabinsk in the Urals. Construction of the 3,300-kilometer oil pipeline, which will be one of the longest in the world, is proceeding slowly. Work on it was halted completely for 10 days in January due to winter storms. In contrast, the 1,600-kilometer Urgengoy-Chelyabinsk gas pipeline was laid in a record 12 months, but most of the compressor stations are yet to be installed, and a second and third line are to be laid on this route by next year.

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Italy

Deputy Prime Minister Ugo La Malfa, the influential leader of the small Republican Party, died today at age 75, following a severe stroke early Saturday. La Malfa was a distinguished elder statesman of Italian politics, and the Embassy reports his death will not affect the likely short survival of the new three-party government. Prime Minister Andreotti reportedly will not select a new deputy prime minister or give a single individual La Malfa's responsibility for the overall supervision of economic affairs.

Saudi Arabia

The US Liaison Office in Riyadh reported yesterday that the mood in Saudi Arabia on the eve of today's OPEC meeting in Geneva is one of uncertainty. Saudi leaders are preoccupied with the impact of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty on Saudi-US relations, realize they have little influence on the other OPEC states given the currently tight market conditions, and face a growing internal debate over production and revenue needs. The Liaison Office, noting both Oil Minister Yamani's bias in favor of market forces and the current high level of spot prices for oil, believes the Saudis will seek to maintain OPEC's current price structure as a floor while agreeing to legitimize "interim" price increases by individual OPEC states and to review the price structure at the next regularly scheduled meeting in June.

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Egypt-Japan

According to a Western wire service report, Foreign Ministry sources in Tokyo said today that Egyptian President Sadat will visit Japan in July. Sadat has stated that he hopes to visit there and West Germany in seeking a new, international "Marshall Plan" to assist his country. [REDACTED]

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Somalia

The nation's official news agency announced yesterday that the ruling party of President Siad Barre has granted an amnesty "to all Somalis who left their country on political grounds or otherwise," adding that returnees "will not be persecuted" for any crimes they had committed. The US Embassy comments that the amnesty may have been timed to enhance Siad's image at the meeting of the Arab League Council that began Saturday in Mogadiscio. The Embassy expects most Somalis abroad to react with skepticism to the amnesty declaration. [REDACTED]

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Spain

The US Embassy in Madrid reports that the issue of Basque autonomy is again at the top of the Spanish political agenda for the upcoming parliamentary session. The Suarez government wants to address each aspect of the issue separately, but the increasingly militant Basques are said to be pressing for quick action on a Basque draft autonomy statute submitted to the lower house of the Spanish Parliament in late December. The Embassy comments that Suarez cannot address the issue in a vacuum; the decision will affect Catalan regionalism and sprouting autonomist sentiment particularly in Andalusia, the Canary Islands, and Galicia. [REDACTED]

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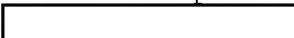
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France

Press reports indicate that the votes in yesterday's runoff contests in the two-stage French department-level elections approximated those of the preceding Sunday, the parties of the left gaining the support of around 55 percent of the electorate. They scored a net gain of about 160 seats and will control a majority of the 95 departmental councils. The center-right coalition that governs at the national level, while apparently running again at around 44 percent of the overall vote, reportedly may now have added problems stemming from bickering over the failure to agree on a single candidate in Strasbourg and elsewhere. 

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Jordan

Amman radio announced last night that King Hussein will visit Syria and Iraq today and tomorrow on his tour of those Arab states opposed to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He went to Saudi Arabia last week. 

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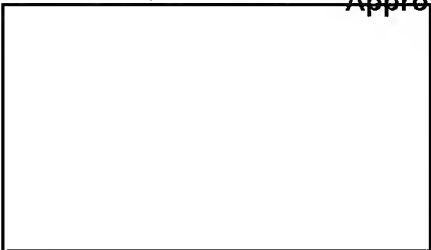


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